

Amendments to the Specification:

At page 10, please amend the paragraph at lines 13-22 to read as follows:

-- According to one aspect, the shank **12** and/or the end pieces **14, 16** may be provided with surface features that may enhance oral stimulation and provide hygiene benefit when chewed. These features may include nodules or other varieties of protrusions **12a, 14a**. One exemplary embodiment of such features may include conical protrusions. The conical protrusions may be of varying sizes, i.e., diameters, heights, etc.--